



KINGSTON NEW YORK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

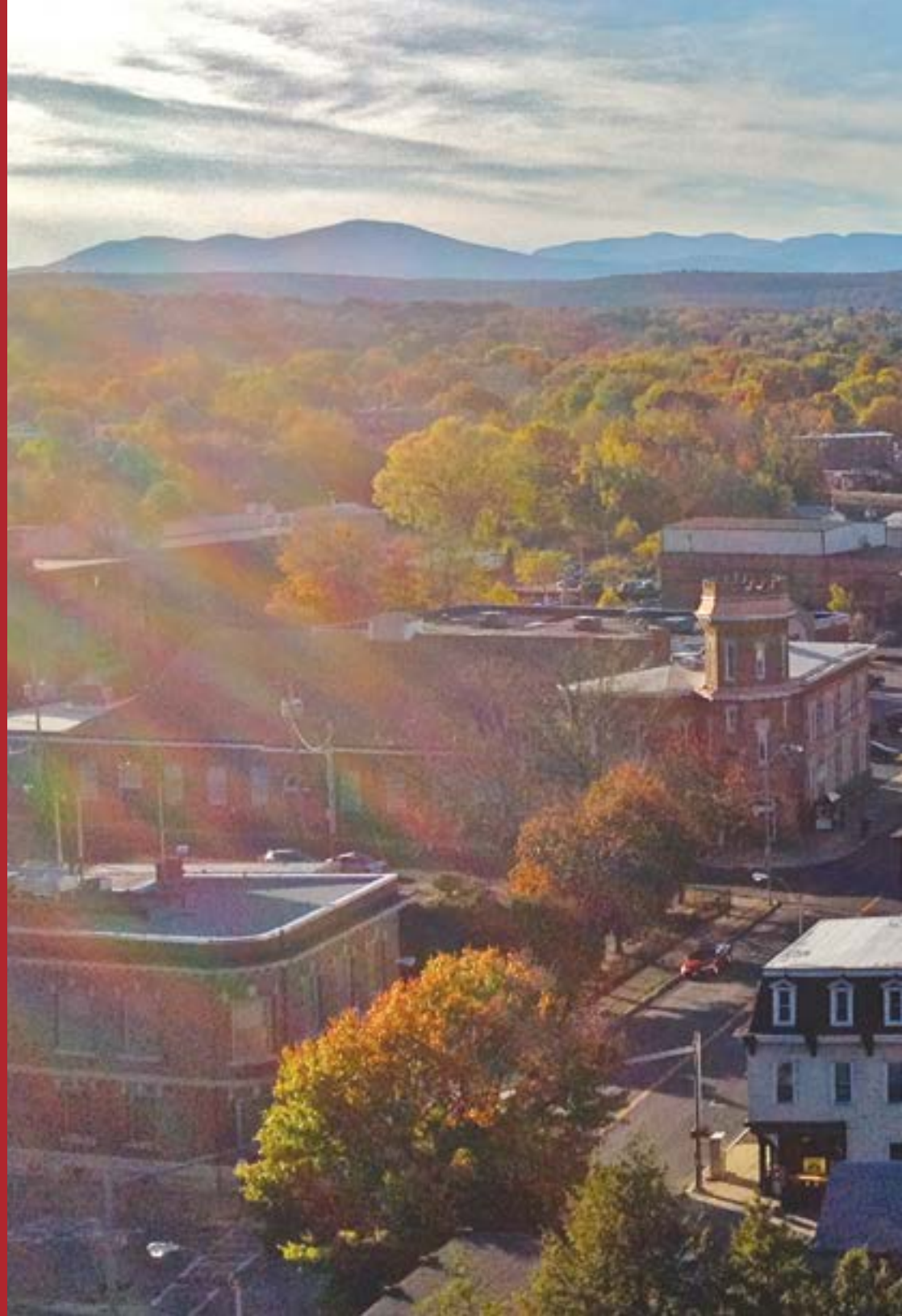
HISTORIC IS JUST OUR BEGINNING

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THE CITY OF **KINGSTON**

Kingston Is Happening! Like many Hudson River towns, our City is undergoing an exciting renaissance. We are an opportunity center for your business, and a lifestyle-rich location for you. Located just 100 miles north of midtown Manhattan, we are nestled in the foothills of the Catskills, at the juncture of the Rondout Creek and the majestic Hudson River. Kingston is an historic American town, abounding with colonial, Federal and Victorian era architecture, as well as classic red brick mill buildings. Once a key trading port, Kingston was New York City's source for timber, bluestone, brick, cement, coal, and farm products. Now we are emerging into a technology and innovation center filled with entrepreneurs, start-ups and boutique companies. Today, Kingston's specialized media, art and tourism sectors are blossoming, making it the lifestyle gateway to the Catskills and Hudson Valley. Kingston offers a stress-free environment with little traffic, noise or air pollution, low crime rates, beautiful scenery, friendly communities, and contemporary lifestyle conveniences. We invite you to learn more about Kingston where historic is just our beginning.

Shayne Gallo, Mayor

Gregg Swanzey, Director, Office of Economic Development
& Strategic Partnerships

Raleigh Green, Coordinator of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

Lisa Bruck, Clerk, Office of Economic Development
& Strategic Partnerships

KINGSTON

DEMOGRAPHICS/ STATISTICS

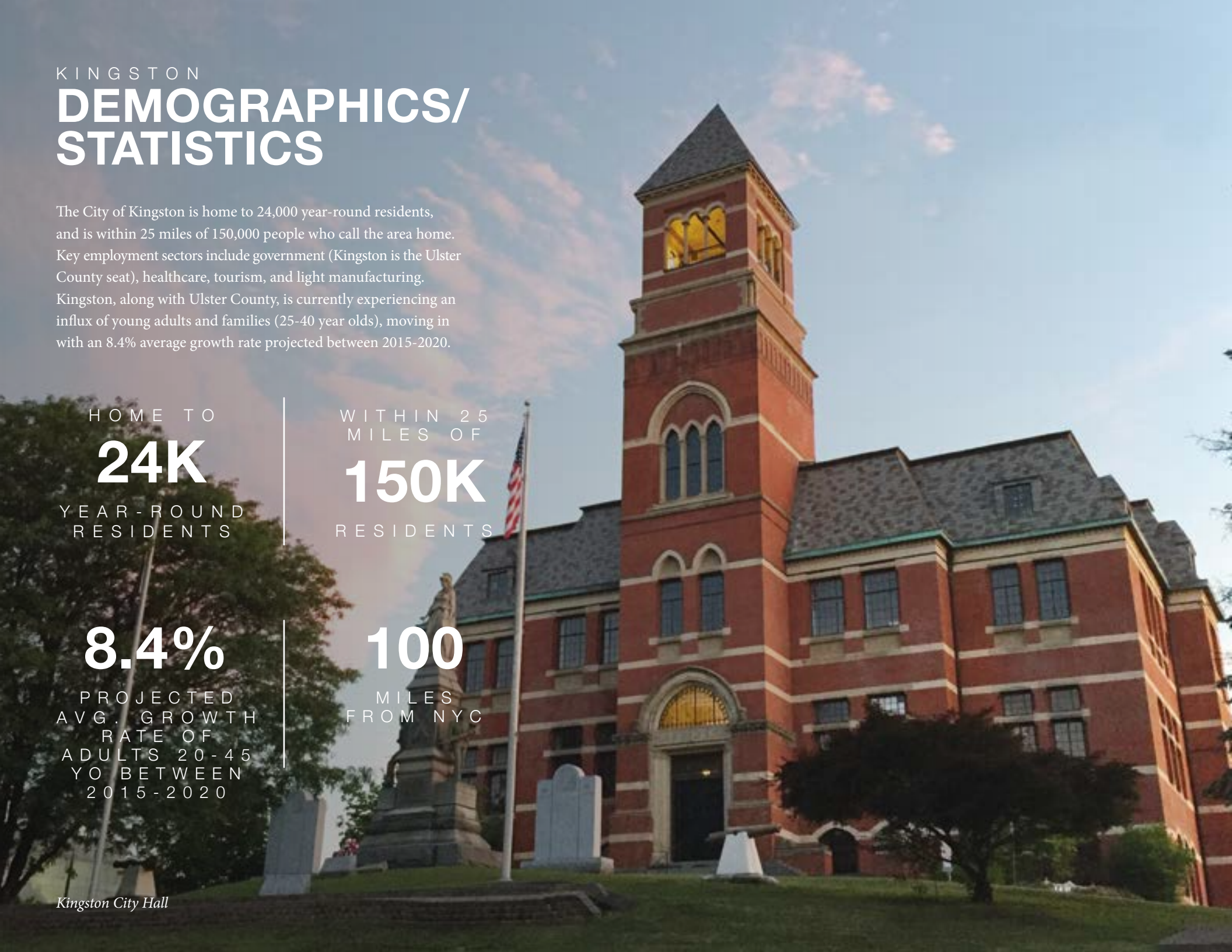
The City of Kingston is home to 24,000 year-round residents, and is within 25 miles of 150,000 people who call the area home. Key employment sectors include government (Kingston is the Ulster County seat), healthcare, tourism, and light manufacturing. Kingston, along with Ulster County, is currently experiencing an influx of young adults and families (25-40 year olds), moving in with an 8.4% average growth rate projected between 2015-2020.

HOME TO
24K
YEAR-ROUND
RESIDENTS

WITHIN 25
MILES OF
150K
RESIDENTS

8.4%
PROJECTED
AVG. GROWTH
RATE OF
ADULTS 20-45
YO BETWEEN
2015-2020

100
MILES
FROM NYC



LOCATION, LOCATION LOCATION

Kingston is located off NY State Thruway I-87 Exit 19, 100 miles from NYC, and just 60 miles south of the state capital at Albany. We are centrally located between Albany, New York City, Montreal and Boston and served by the close-by Amtrak, Metro-North station in Poughkeepsie, nearby airports in Albany and Newburgh and convenient commuter buses to NYC. We are also less than 30 minutes from the Taconic Parkway and I- 84, the major east-west commercial corridor serving the Hudson Valley.



Rondout Lighthouse



BUSINESS & COMMERCE

Kingston is a work-ethic town filled with families who come from an agricultural, service-provision, or high-tech background. We are home to many new start-ups, attracted by the available housing stock, fine schools, great restaurants, a wide variety of retail outlets, traditional and alternative health care, and enviable quality of life. Many of our older buildings are being retrofitted for new businesses and opportunities. Kingston makes every effort to attract new businesses and families, and will welcome you with open arms, walking you through any concerns you may have, including work-force attraction, financing, and permitting issues. Kingston's economy also benefits from a thriving tourism sector, increasingly growing and driven by the city's history, charming architecture, proximity to major metropolitan areas, museums, festivals and recreation.



Housing

Kingston and its immediate environs offer a wide variety of residential opportunities, with rentals, live-work, lofts, homes for sale and new-builds. Every style of architecture, including stone houses, former mill buildings, condo town homes, and ultra-modern log cabins can be found here. The median listing price for homes in Ulster County is \$256,000, with the median sale price for homes at \$197,000 (October 2015). The median listing price for homes in Kingston is \$179,900, with the median sale price at \$145,000 (October 2015).

Education

Kingston has a variety of fine public, private, and religious schools, including Kingston and Coleman High Schools, Poughkeepsie and Woodstock Day Schools, and a number of special needs and alternative educational schools. The mid-Hudson Valley is well known for our safe, caring and comprehensive schools. Local colleges include SUNY Ulster Community College, SUNY New Paltz, Bard College, Vassar College, Marist College, and the Culinary Institute of America, each within a short drive of Kingston.

Kingston at Work

Kingston has many advantages for growing or re-locating businesses. There are numerous commercially zoned parcels available at reasonable cost including raw-land sites and buildings ready for renovation, with municipal water, sewer, utilities and fiber. Despite low unemployment rates in the area, the existing workforce gets high marks for expertise in technology related businesses, the arts, medical, light industrial and retail sectors. The County's *Ulster Works* agency partners with the local colleges and *Ulster BOCES*, providing a ready workforce and targeted training for firms seeking excellent employees. Contact us for a list of shovel-ready sites, information about our revolving loan fund, and other resources we offer. Additional support is provided by the *Ulster County Office of Economic Development*, <http://ulstercountyny.gov/economic-development>, and the *Ulster County Industrial Development Agency*, <http://ulstercountyny.gov/economic-development/ulster-county-industrial-development-agency>

Contact Us

Contact the *Office of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships* located at 420 Broadway, Kingston NY, 12401 or call us at 845-334-3962. Kingston's Economic Development professionals will guide your business every step of the way. We have experience attracting new tech businesses, entrepreneurs, family-owned companies and corporations. We can provide you with locational data and demographics, site information, roadmaps for Planning Board and permitting, and all the information you need to investigate locating here. See <http://kingston-ny.gov/ecodev> for more information.



Kingston Rondout Neighborhood

LIFESTYLE

Complementing our many business opportunities are the extraordinary lifestyle opportunities. Kingston is the cultural center of the mid-Hudson Valley, featuring over a dozen small museums, many boutique shops and artisanal taverns, music venues and art galleries.

Founded in 1652 after centuries of Native American habitation, Kingston is a treasure trove of early American history, and home to the largest number of Dutch colonial stone houses in the world. The City has four distinct Historic Districts, and many quaint neighborhoods featuring a wide variety of architectural styles, creating a vibrant but charming small-city atmosphere.

Ever since the founding of the Hudson Valley School of Art in the mid 19th Century, Kingston has been a haven for artists and artisans. Today, Kingston welcomes artists from around the world by celebrating the creative spirit. Numerous art galleries, specialized art businesses, multimedia companies, film production and writers' studios, and art festivals have put Kingston on the map, with our art energy amplified by nearby Woodstock, New Paltz and Rhinebeck art galleries. Kingston is also a wellspring for Internet and media content creation, beckoning young professionals to our City.

Kingston's location along the Hudson River and in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains offers outdoor enthusiasts endless four-season opportunities. Our improved waterfront hosts boat docks, kayaking and canoeing, jet skiing, sailing and motor boating, fishing, and parasailing. Our extensive network of hiking and rail trails extend throughout the entire region. Kingston is home to one of the first BMX tracks, has several gyms and YMCA facilities, and active cycling groups. Kingston is also in close proximity to the top East Coast destination for rock-climbing. With skiing at several nearby resorts such as Belleayre and Hunter Mountain, ice fishing and ice skating, and cross country skiing, Kingston offers healthy recreation for all lifestyles in every season.



RE-VISIONING KINGSTON

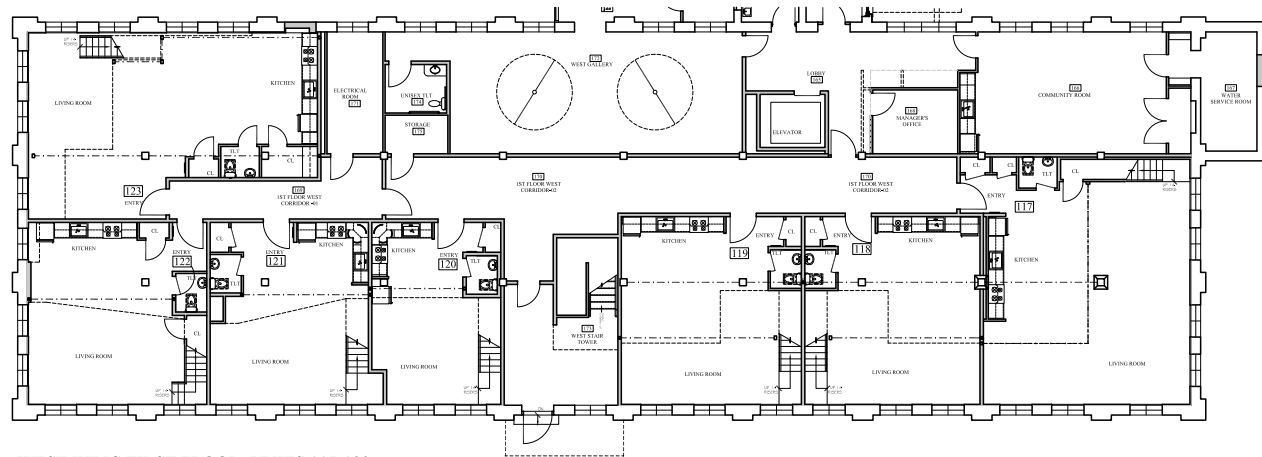
CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

As Kingston has deep roots extending back over 350+ years, we need to continuously re-envision our City, building on our heritage and infrastructure, and plan for future development. We are becoming more connected and resilient while building our tax base as a livable city: a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate.

The following pages highlight sample projects now under development.



Lace Mill Lofts and Artist Apartments



WEST WING FIRST FLOOR: UNITS 117-123

Lace Mill Floor Plan



Proposed Energy Square Housing Project



Kingston O+ Arts Festival



Hudson Riverport



Ulster Performing Arts Center

New Midtown Arts District

Anchor arts institutions such as the Lace Mill, Ulster Performing Arts Center, and the Shirt Factory are key features of an Arts District in Midtown: a platform for revitalization, economic investment, and community enrichment. The Arts District is becoming a magnet for tourism and investment, and helps to unite Kingston's Uptown and Rond-out commercial districts.

Hudson Riverport Project

An internationally recognized architectural firm has been engaged to assist in planning a 192-acre waterfront development project, called Hudson Riverport.

Once a bustling waterfront with heavy commercial traffic, tugboats, shipyards and daily excursion ferries to NYC, the project will facilitate the clean-up and reuse of brownfield and underutilized sites along the harbor, while enhancing public access to the waterfront. This new development will be consistent with the natural and historic character of our harbor area.

Kingston Trail Hub

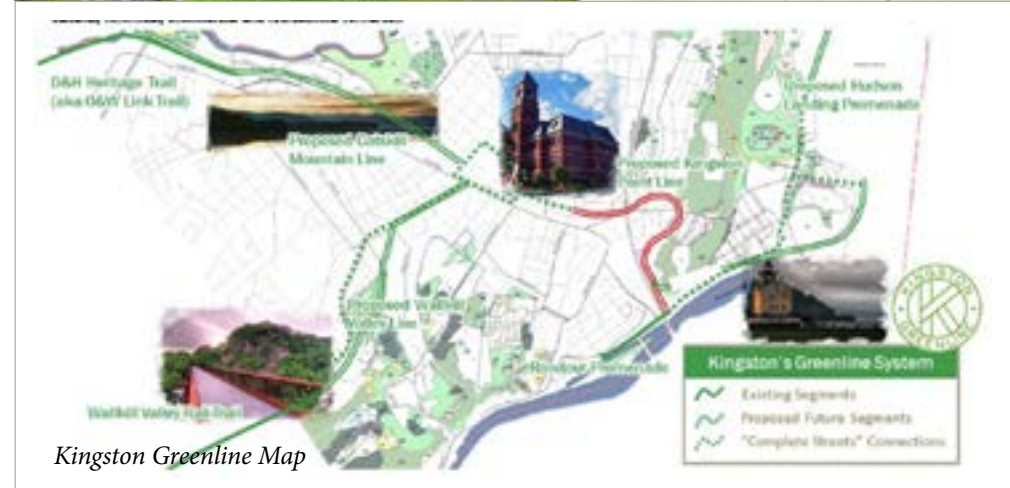
Our many scenic rail trails have been thoroughly embraced by the public. Kingston is now developing vital trail connections, making Kingston into a Trail Hub for the entire Mid-Hudson Valley. Volunteers are working diligently to improve our scenic corridors, connecting Kingston to the Hurley Trail and continuing to the beautiful Ashokan Reservoir. The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, coming from New Paltz and over the Rosendale trestle, now goes into Kingston. This initiative will better establish the trailhead with new signage and improved parking at the Kingston City line. The next step will be to bring the Trail Hub to Midtown Kingston.

Kingston Greenline

The City of Kingston and the Kingston Land Trust have been working closely since 2010 to create a new walking trail that connects the historic waterfront to Midtown. Called the Kingston Greenline, the trail, when complete, will run along an abandoned rail corridor that once carried steamboat vacationers from New York, as they traveled to elite resorts in the Catskills. Planning, design and engineering for street and linear park connections between Midtown and the waterfront, and out to the Hudson River along this 3-mile rail trail are advancing in earnest.

Building a Better Broadway Project

Broadway is the main corridor connecting each of Kingston's commercial areas. The City of Kingston is working with the Ulster County Transportation Council to refine plans for an improved Broadway with new street enhancements, making the corridor more bike and pedestrian friendly and attractive, with heritage plantings, streetscaping and new traffic engineering.



Historic Preservation

When cities launch into a period of revitalization, it is the historic districts that visitors first seek out. Kingston is home to four designated Historic Districts: the Stockade National Historic District, representing the buildings within the outline of the original Dutch fortifications built in 1658 by Pieter Stuyvesant; the Rondout-West Strand National Historic District, encompassing the brick structures on Lower Broadway and the waterfront; the Chestnut Street National Historic District featuring the neo-classical architectural design of stately mansions overlooking the waterfront and the Fair Street Historic District in Uptown Kingston offering tree-shaded streets having significant circa 1850 examples of Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival homes built by our successful mercantile class.

Survey work is underway to catalog and better assess other key historic and significant buildings in Midtown and Uptown Kingston, assisting better management of our historic assets that are central to Kingston's character. Included in this effort is the Kingston Bluestone Study, which will survey Kingston's role in the bluestone industry, source of many distinctive sidewalks throughout New York State.



Stockade Historic District



Abeel Street



The Mattheus Persen House

East Strand Promenade Extension

The existing Strand Promenade along the Rondout Creek has been a huge success, giving new access to the waterfront. The East Strand Promenade Extension, including new sidewalks, lighting and amenities is being completed. This project will include improvements to the entrances of the Trolley Museum, the Maritime Museum, and the Clearwater Sloop facility, setting the stage for new and exciting activities on the waterfront and Kingston Point Park.

Hudson Landing Promenade

A mile-long promenade will be built to provide free public access to the Hudson River at this remarkable site. Hudson Landing is a planned mixed-use residential development along the Hudson River that will create a new neighborhood on the Kingston/Ulster waterfront. The Promenade project will be a public/private inter-municipal partnership, providing economic development benefits for the City of Kingston.

Kingston Takes the Lead: Sea Level Rise and Flooding Task Force

Kingston was the first city in the Mid-Hudson region to address the growing concern of rising sea-levels effecting the city's Hudson River and Rondout Creek waterfronts. A task force was created to evaluate and make recommendations for mitigating the impact of rising water levels and flooding events. As a result of this initiative, we are in the process of developing a capital plan for Kingston's Waterwater Treatment Plant, originally built in a floodplain along the Rondout Creek. A range of additional recommendations by the task force are also being studied so that Kingston will be able to meet this growing challenge in a strategic and cost effective manner.

New Investment in Kingston's Park System

Kingston has one of the most extensive and well-maintained park systems of any Mid-Hudson City. Numerous enhancements are underway in several parks including Hasbrouck Park, where the pavilion overlooking the Hudson River will be renovated and include new amenities including a kitchen. Kingston Point Park recently received a new changing station at its beach, new park benches and bike racks, and a new crushed stone walking trail along the refurbished trolley tracks. This walkway boasts

stellar views of the Rondout Lighthouse and Hudson River and has proven to be a highly popular. Forsyth Park in Uptown Kingston recently received a new children's playground called Kinderland II thanks to a state grant and efforts by the local Junior League. In addition, the design phase is underway for new tennis courts in Forsyth Park, enhancing the diverse range of recreational opportunities for Kingston residents.

Homestead Non-Homestead Differential Tax Study

Kingston has taken the lead to analyze and form a strategy for revamping its tax structure that has disproportionately impacted businesses over the past 35 years. This problem is shared by many municipalities across the state and will require a unified effort working closely with the New York State Legislature and the Governor's office. We are working through the NY Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) for placement of this issue on the agenda and to develop a workable strategy going forward in partnership with Mayors of other municipalities across the state.







**Office of Economic Development &
Strategic Partnerships**

420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
845-334-3962
www.kingston-ny.gov/ecodev

